



ERIC WHITACRE'S VIRTUAL SCHOOL

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

Student Guide – Curiosity Edition



Introduction

In the concluding videos of *A Beautiful Mess*, Eric reflects on the emotional journey on which we lead our audiences. He speaks about what we are communicating: our truest ideologies, illuminating and lifting our performers and listeners through our musical vision.

Eric speaks of beauty in very simple terms: joy, sorrow, love, birth, death, and the natural world and how his music reflects those concepts. He also describes how the craft of composition is a gift, bringing patience, meticulousness, focus and discipline to the composer. He views composition as a chance for the “big mind” to speak to the “small mind” and in so doing

to transform oneself.

Summative Assessment

1. Choose one of the shorter works by Eric Whitacre, possibly “A Boy and a Girl” or “Lux Aurumque” and create a personal reflection or interpretation of the work through a visual representation (drawing, diagram or other medium) or essay.

A Boy and a Girl: https://youtu.be/j_AMI0vRqF8

Lux Aurumque: <https://youtu.be/e6HVCqQStRE>

2. A Listening Map is like a Style Sheet that is created after a piece is composed as a guide for the listener. Choose one of Eric’s shorter pieces (as in #1 above) and as a group, develop a visualization of the music, following the lyrics and timeline of the piece. Describe the music in non-technical terms, such as “high sounds, thick texture, loud, soft, etc.” Listen to the piece again and see if you can follow your listening map.

Reflection and Insights

Describe how your perception of creativity or composition may have changed because of taking the class?

Are you more or less likely to pursue creative ideas? Why or why not?

What aspects of the course affected you the most? The least? Why or why not?

Did your attitude toward music change because of this class? Why or why not?

Are you more likely or less likely to pursue music in the future? Why or why not?

Would you change this course to better suit your learning style and interests? If so, describe how you would change it and why the adjustments would be better for you.
